

CONNECT to the Essential Question

How did Americans create a national government that respected both the independence of states and the rights of individuals?



	CONFEDERATION WEAKNESSES	NEW GOVERNMENT STRENGTHS
Taxes	Congress could not levy or collect taxes.	Congress empowered to levy and collect taxes
Trade	Congress could not regulate trade carried on between states or with foreign nations.	Congress empowered to regulate interstate and foreign commerce
Courts	No regular Confederation courts; Congress depended on state courts to settle legal disputes arising from its laws.	A national system of courts set up with district and circuit courts and a supreme court
Executive	No national executive branch; enforcement of acts of Congress left to the states.	National government had the power to enforce federal laws.
States' Rights	Equality of states in voting, regardless of size or population	Proportional representation in the House; equality of states in the Senate.
Amendments	Unanimous vote required to amend Articles	Two-thirds vote in each House of Congress
Laws	Nine states had to approve an ordinary bill.	A majority required to pass a bill

CRITICAL THINKING Evaluate How were states' rights protected under the new government?

The Bill of Rights and the Constitution

 **KEY QUESTION** How does the Bill of Rights protect people's rights?

Madison, who took office in the first Congress in the winter of 1789, took up the cause of the bill of rights. Madison submitted ten **amendments**, or additions to a document, to the Constitution. Congress proposed that they be placed at the end of the Constitution in a separate section. These ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution became known as the **Bill of Rights**.

The Bill of Rights Of these amendments to the Constitution, the first nine guarantee basic individual freedoms. Jefferson and Madison believed that government enforcement of religious laws was the source of much social conflict. They supported freedom of religion as a way to prevent such conflict. Even before Madison wrote the Bill of Rights, he worked to ensure religious liberty in Virginia. (In 1786, Madison had helped pass the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, originally written by Jefferson in 1779.)